

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) a gamma-irradiated radiation crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene; and (ii) a non-crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene molded to said crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene at a melt-fused interface.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein said gamma-irradiated radiation crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene and said non-crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

51. Cancelled.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein:

    said gamma-irradiated radiation crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

    said non-crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

53. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:  
said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and  
said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein  
which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:  
said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and  
said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein  
which is adapted to be secured to a tibia of a patient.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of  
claim 49, wherein said gamma irradiated radiation crosslinked layer of polymer polyethylene has  
an articulating surface defined therein.

56. (Currently Amended) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis,  
comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) a first layer of gamma irradiated polymer  
polyethylene which is radiation crosslinked to a first degree; and (ii) a second layer of polymer  
polyethylene molded to said first layer of polymer polyethylene at a melt-fused interface, said  
second layer of polymer polyethylene is crosslinked to a second degree that is different than said  
first degree.

57. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of  
claim 56, wherein said second degree is less than said first degree.

58. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 57, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein.

59. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene and said second layer of polymer polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

60. Cancelled.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein:

    said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

    said second layer of polymer polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

62. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

    said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

    said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

63. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

    said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

    said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

64. - 123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein the second layer of polymer polyethylene comprises ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ radiation crosslinked polyethylene.